

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are in the case.

It is the belief of the Applicants that the claims of the present invention are directed to a common subject matter and the search and examination of the entire application can be made by the Examiner without serious burden.

Claims 1-9 (Group I) and claims 10-20 (Group II) relate to a semiconductor device and methods of manufacturing of the device. Both the method and the system claims relate to the same subject matter and include many of the same elements. It is respectfully submitted that serious burden would not be placed on the Examiner to search the common subject and examine both Group I and Group II claims. Such a search would be more efficient and could be performed without serious burden or any significant effort on the part of the Examiner.

It is recognized that in order for this paper to be responsive to the Office Action, an election must be made. In the Office Action of May 7, 2004, restriction has been required to one of the following two groups of claims:

(I) Claims 1-9; and

(II) Claims 10-20.

Accordingly, claims of Group I (1-9) are elected for examination at this time.

Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicants traversal of the present restriction requirement, Applicant reserves the right to pursue Group II claims (10-20) by way of a separate divisional application. The claims pending in the case have been listed for the Examiner's

convenience. Should the Examiner fail to reconsider the restriction requirement, the status of the pending claims will be adjusted accordingly.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Early and favorable action of the case is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-1433.

Respectfully submitted,

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